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COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A personal shopping system for servicing customers at shopping establishment and remote locations over at least one communications network, the shopping system comprising:

at least one point-of-sale (POS) system located in the shopping establishment;

at least one establishment or remotely located portable shopping terminal for acquiring shopping related data; [[and]]

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a centrally located controller for communicating with [[said]] the POS system and [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal via [[said]] the at least one network, processing [[said]] the shopping related data, and controlling shopping transactions engaged in by [[said]] the customers, wherein the at least one shopping terminal is a bar code storage device for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, storing the bar codes, and transferring the bar codes to the controller over the at least one network; and

one or more proximity sensors coupled to the controller for monitoring product sales areas in the shopping establishment.

2. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, [[said]] the portable terminal comprising an elongated pen-shaped housing having an end with an optically transparent passage there through.

3. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, [[said]] the portable terminal comprising:

a housing having a generally elongated rectangular design which fits into user's hand, [[said]] the housing having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface, a bottom surface and two side surfaces;

a touch sensitive display disposed on [[said]] the front surface;

a plurality of buttons disposed on [[said]] the front surface wherein each of [[said]] the buttons is associated with at least one user function or application upon activation;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes, [[said]] the bar code reader having a visible light source for displaying the area of reading for the bar code reader upon activation of a bar code reading function on [[said]] the portable terminal, [[said]] the bar code reader being configured to

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transmit the visible light away from [[said]] the top surface of [[said]] the portable terminal's housing such that [[said]] the light is visible to [[said]] the user holding [[said]] the portable terminal; and

at least two bar code activation buttons located on [[said]] the two side surfaces of [[said]] the housing such that [[said]] the user's hand is supporting [[said]] the portable terminal from [[said]] the bottom and side surfaces of [[said]] the portable terminal upon activation of [[said]] the bar code reader with either of [[said]] the bar code activation buttons, whereby the user can view [[said]] the display and [[said]] the visible light source upon activation of either of [[said]] the bar code activation buttons.

4. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein [[said]] the portable terminal further comprises a touch sensitive area within [[said]] the touch sensitive display for receiving data inputs from a stylus pen.

5. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein [[said]] the portable terminal further comprises an information key for allowing a user to display product information.

6. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the controller comprises inference means for deriving a shopping profile for the customer.

7. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal comprises means for converting any currency amount to and from a corresponding Euro amount.

8. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal is coupled to a telephone line and [[said]] the shopping terminal comprises means for providing secure and silent communications when transferring data to and from [[said]] the shopping terminal without notifying or disturbing a user.

9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein [[said]] the bar code storage device comprises:

an egg-shaped housing;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, [[said]] the bar code reader having a visible light indicator for indicating the scanning status of the bar code reader and at least one bar code activation button located on the top surface of [[said]] the bar code storage device for activating [[said]] the bar code reader;

memory storage mean coupled to [[said]] the bar code reader for storing [[said]] the bar codes; and

communication means for transferring [[said]] the bar codes to [[said]] the controller over [[said]] the at least one network.

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11. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal comprises a scanning system comprising a wearable computer processor and a wearable scanning device in communication with the computer processor.

12. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 11, wherein [[said]] the scanning system further comprises a headset having a speaker and a miniature display device for providing a audio, graphical and video information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the controller means for controlling the transaction processing and the operation of the POS system and [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal;

means for communicating with at least one shopping terminal located within [[said]] the shopping establishment;

means for communicating with at least one remotely located shopping terminal via a telephone;

means for communicating voice data between [[said]] the controlling means and [[said]]

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the at least one remotely located shopping terminal;

means for remotely ordering goods to be gathered by store personnel at the shopping establishment; and

means for communicating with the at least one remotely located shopping terminal over the Internet.

15. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein the controlling means comprises:

means for starting and restarting the operation of the shopping system;

means for terminating the operation of the shopping system;

means for displaying the operational status of the shopping system;

means for controlling the day-to-day operations and maintenance tasks of the shopping system;

means for displaying the status of communications related to the shopping system;

means for preparing the shopping system to accept an upcoming day's transactions;

means for transferring price data files from the POS system to the controller; and

means for allowing a system operator to disable checking on transactions by the controller so as to speed up checkout processing during busy periods.

16. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein the controlling means comprises means for processing transactions related to the shopping establishment including start of day processing, normal store processing, end of day processing and overnight processing.

17. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein the means for remotely ordering goods is used to generate a picking list from a home computing terminal having access to the Internet.

18. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein the

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the shopping terminal is a portable terminal, [[said]] the portable terminal comprising means for freely associating with a corresponding communications network.

19. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the shopping terminal comprises means for fingerprint identification.

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

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23. (Currently Amended) A method for shopping at a shopping establishment having a centrally-controlled shopping system for processing shopping transactions and orders from shopping establishment and remote locations, the centrally-controlled shopping system having a point-of-sale (POS) system located in the shopping establishment, at least one establishment or remotely located portable shopping terminal, and a controller in communication with the POS system and the at least one terminal via at least one communications network, [[said]] the method comprising:

associating the terminal with the at least one network and a customer, wherein the terminal is a bar code storage device for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, storing the bar codes, and transferring the bar codes to the controller over the at least one network;

monitoring product sales areas in the shopping establishment via one or more proximity sensors coupled to the controller;

scanning one or more items to be purchased using the terminal;

returning the terminal to the terminal receptacle;

collecting a receipt corresponding to the scanned items; and

purchasing the scanned items at a customer check-out station.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the associating step checking-in by a customer at a customer entry station;

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authorizing the at least one terminal for use by the customer; and
obtaining the authorized terminal from a terminal receptacle.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the associating step comprises the step of freely associating the terminal with the at least one network.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding [[said]] the shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified
in the shopping list; and
collecting the items identified in the picking list for check-out or delivery.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding [[said]] the shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified in the
shopping list;
assigning a picking list ID barcode to the picking list;
printing a label showing the picking list ID barcode;
scanning the items corresponding to the picking list; and
collecting the scanned items for check-out or delivery.

28. (Withdrawn)

29. (Withdrawn)

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

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32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Withdrawn)

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Withdrawn)

37. (Withdrawn)

38. (Withdrawn)

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